

# DEEDS OF VALOR

FROM RECORDS IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HOW AMERICAN HEROES WON THE

### MEDAL OF HONOR

#### HISTORY OF OUR RECENT WARS AND EXPLORATIONS

FROM PERSONAL REMINISCENCES AND RECORDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED  
MEN WHO WERE REWARDED BY CONGRESS FOR MOST CONSPICUOUS  
ACTS OF BRAVERY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, ON THE HIGH  
SEAS AND IN ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

AMONG OTHER RECORDS THE STIRRING ADVENTURES OF:

Admiral W. S. SCHLEY  
Admiral GEO. DEWEY  
Lieut-Gen'l NELSON A. MILES  
Maj-Gen'l WM. R. SHAFTER  
Admiral D. G. FARRAGUT  
Admiral D. D. PORTER

Admiral GEO. W. MELVILLE  
Lieut. G. W. DeLONG  
General A. W. GREELY  
Commander W. D. CUSHING  
Hon. L. P. di CESNOLA  
Gen'l F. J. BELL

Hon. WM. F. CODY, (Buffalo Bill)  
Gen'l MARION P. MAUS  
Gen'l ARTHUR McARTHUR, Jr.  
Gen'l DELEVAN BATES  
Gen'l JULIUS STAHL  
Hon. JOHN C. BLACK

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## “A MORE GALLANT CHARGE WAS NEVER MADE”



**CHARLES C. DAVIS,**  
Major, 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry.  
Born at Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 15, 1830.

ON JUNE 27, 1863, during the operations around Shelbyville, General Sheridan ordered Major Charles C. Davis with 300 troopers of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry to make a charge on the camp of the Fourth Alabama, at Unionville, Tenn. This camp was composed of no less than 1,000 rebels under command of General Russell of General Forrest's Division. Major Davis entered upon the execution of this order with alacrity, made the charge and drove the enemy pell-mell through their own camp and on to Hickory Hill Church, a distance of seven miles, taking Hardee's infantry picket and capturing a wagon train of seventeen six-mule teams. The gallant major then led his

men back to the rebel camp, seized everything in sight and subsequently was able to report the complete success of his mission to General Sheridan. The enemy's loss in killed, wounded and captured was 302; the entire camp and garrison equipment fell into the possession of Major Davis' little band and all of the personal effects of the Alabamians were taken, besides \$27,000 in Confederate money, which were in keeping of the paymaster. The success of Major Davis' achievement is the more brilliant as it was accomplished with the loss of but two killed and one wounded.

No better idea of this remarkable cavalry charge can be given than by the following account, which Brigadier-General D. S. Stanley gives of it in his report of the engagement. Says General Stanley :

“The right wing of General Rosecrans' army had driven the left of the Confederate Army, a division of cavalry commanded by General Wheeler, into the town of Shelbyville, when Wheeler's force of 3,000' men formed line just at the northern outskirts of the town to defend their stores.

“A battery of four guns pointing north, commanded the principal turnpike, well supported by dismounted cavalry, right and left. It was decided to attack the center

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**Shelbyville, Tenn.**—About the middle of June, 1863, General Rosecrans decided to attack Bragg's forces at Shelbyville, and thereby relieve East Tennessee by driving the Confederates into Georgia. The advance began on the 23d of June, when McCook's Corps moved directly upon Shelbyville, where demonstrations were to be made while Crittenden, Thomas and Granger were to move upon the place from different directions. Several severe encounters were had with the enemy, who were in every instance defeated. Granger had been joined by Stanley, and together they proceeded to Guy's Gap, which they took after an hour's engagement. They then moved upon and occupied Shelbyville, which Bragg had abandoned. The Confederate cavalry under Wheeler were driven across Duck River with a loss of about 500 prisoners and a large quantity of stores and provisions.

of this line and ride over the battery. The Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry was selected for the purpose, supported by the Fourth United States Cavalry. The pike being narrow, the charge was made in column of fours. Major Davis' position would have placed him on the right of the second squadron, but he volunteered to lead the charge and put himself in front of the leading set of fours.

"At the signal of two cannon shots from our guns, the column dashed down the pike, receiving only one round from the hostile battery, rode over the guns, routed the supports, and put the entire force opposed, to precipitate and disastrous flight.



THE ENEMY PUT TO DISASTROUS FLIGHT.

The boldness of the attack insured its success. Only one shell struck the column, killing two men and three horses in the charge. Our captures were 300 prisoners, the battery complete, and a large amount of stores.

"A more gallant charge was never made, and Major Davis rode well in front of the leading sabres, the beau ideal of a trooper."

Major Davis was complimented on the field by General Sheridan. Congress, in bestowing the Medal of Honor upon the gallant major, characterized the charge as "one of the most desperate and successful of the war."